

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3683

To direct the Secretary of Transportation to evaluate devices and technology for reducing the incidence of child injury and death occurring inside or outside of motor vehicles, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 8, 2003

Mr. KING of New York (for himself and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Transportation to evaluate devices and technology for reducing the incidence of child injury and death occurring inside or outside of motor vehicles, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Cameron Gulbransen
5 Kids and Cars Safety Act of 2003”.

1 **SEC. 2. EVALUATION OF DEVICES AND TECHNOLOGY TO**
2 **REDUCE CHILD INJURY AND DEATH FROM**
3 **PARKED OR UNATTENDED MOTOR VEHICLES.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Transportation
5 shall evaluate—

6 (1) devices and technologies intended to reduce
7 the incidence of child injury and child death occur-
8 ring outside of parked motor vehicles in nontraffic,
9 noncrash events, including backing-over incidents,
10 that are caused by such vehicles, and determining
11 which of those methods is the most effective; and

12 (2) currently available technology to prevent in-
13 jury and death of children left unattended inside of
14 parked motor vehicles, including injury or death due
15 to hyperthermia, power windows, or power sunroofs.

16 (b) REPORT.—The Secretary of Transportation shall
17 submit a report on the findings and determinations of the
18 evaluation under this section to the Congress by not later
19 than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

20 (c) COMPLETION OF RULEMAKING REGARDING
21 POWER WINDOWS.—The Secretary of Transportation
22 shall by not later than 6 months after the submission of
23 the report under subsection (b) complete any rulemaking
24 begun before the date of the enactment of this Act regard-
25 ing power windows and power window switches.

1 **SEC. 3. DATABASE FOR TRACKING THE NUMBER AND**
2 **TYPES OF INJURIES AND DEATHS IN NON-**
3 **TRAFFIC, NONCRASH EVENTS.**

4 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Transpor-
5 tation shall establish a database of (or modify an existing
6 database to include), and collect data regarding, the num-
7 bers and types of injuries and deaths in nontraffic,
8 noncrash events involving motor vehicles.

9 (b) INCLUDED INFORMATION.—The Secretary of
10 Transportation shall collect and include in such database
11 the following information:

12 (1) The types, makes, models, and model years
13 of motor vehicles involved in nontraffic, noncrash
14 events.

15 (2) Whether there was an operator of each
16 motor vehicle in such events.

17 (3) The age of each operator of such motor ve-
18 hicles.

19 (4) The age of each individual who suffered in-
20 jury or death in such events.

21 (5) Whether each motor vehicle had technology
22 installed to detect individuals and objects behind it.

23 (6) The degree of injury to each individual who
24 suffered injury or death in such events.

25 (7) The location of which the injury or death
26 occurred.

1 (8) Any other information prescribed by the
2 Secretary of Transportation.

3 (c) AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary of Transportation
4 shall make information in the database under this section
5 available to the public, through—

6 (1) an Internet page of the Department of
7 Transportation; and

8 (2) annual reports.

9 **SEC. 4. MOTOR VEHICLE BACKOVER PREVENTION TECH-**
10 **NOLOGY EVALUATION.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Transportation
12 shall evaluate the available technologies for detecting and
13 preventing collisions with individuals and objects behind
14 a motor vehicle, with respect to the accuracy, effectiveness,
15 cost, and feasibility of installation of such technologies in
16 a wide variety of motor vehicles.

17 (b) REPORT.—The Secretary of Transportation shall
18 submit a report on the findings of the evaluation under
19 this section to the Congress by not later than one year
20 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

21 **SEC. 5. MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY STANDARDS REQUIRING**
22 **BACKUP DETECTION DEVICES.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Based on the findings of the eval-
24 uation under section 4, the Secretary of Transportation
25 shall prescribe motor vehicle safety standards that—

1 (1) require the installation, as standard equip-
2 ment on a new motor vehicle, of devices for detect-
3 ing, and providing to operators of such a vehicle a
4 warning of, individuals and objects behind the motor
5 vehicle; and

6 (2) establish requirements for the performance
7 of such devices.

8 (b) PHASED-IN APPLICATION.—Standards prescribed
9 under this section shall take effect (as specified by the
10 standards) over the 3-year period beginning on the date
11 of the submission of the report under section 4(b), as fol-
12 lows:

13 (1) With respect to light trucks (as defined by
14 the Administration for purposes of the standards),
15 by not later than the end of the 2-year period begin-
16 ning on such date.

17 (2) With respect to other passenger motor vehi-
18 cles specified by the Secretary of Transportation,
19 after the end of such 2-year period and by not later
20 than the end of the 3-year period beginning on such
21 date.

22 **SEC. 6. MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY STANDARDS FOR POWER**
23 **WINDOWS AND POWER SUNROOFS.**

24 The Secretary of Transportation shall, by not later
25 than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act,

1 prescribe motor vehicle safety standards for power win-
2 dows and power sunroofs, that—

3 (1) ensure that the operation of power windows,
4 power window switches, and power sunroofs cannot
5 result in deaths and injuries; and

6 (2) require inclusion with power windows and
7 power sunroofs of—

8 (A) child-safe switches; and

9 (B) auto reverse technology.

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